

Introduction



Ganesha, also known as **Ganapati** and **Vinayaka**, is probably one of the most celebrated and the most-worshipped deities of Hinduism from times immemorial. He is represented as a short, pot-bellied god with four arms and an elephant's head. In his four hands he customarily holds a conch shell, a *chakra* (discus), a mace and a water-lily. His unusual steed is a rat. Ganesha is the second son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati.

In Hindu mythology, this adorable god is widely revered as the 'Remover of Obstacles', **Vighneshvara**. Ganesha is also known as the 'Lord of Beginnings.' He is often invoked by his devotees before beginning some significant task, to gain unfailing success in the endeavor. He is a patron of arts and is considered to be the god of intellect and wisdom.

This particular series delightfully narrates the stories from the life of Ganesha. It is replete with anecdotes from the various phases of his life beginning from his birth to adulthood. These amusing episodes will assuredly entertain and enrich the minds of the young readers!



Lord Shiva

Lord Shiva, the Hindu god of destruction and rejuvenation is one of the principal deities of the Hindu Triad, along with Lord Vishnu and Lord Brahma. Lord Shiva destroys to renew and regenerate life. It is a constructive destruction that builds and transforms life.

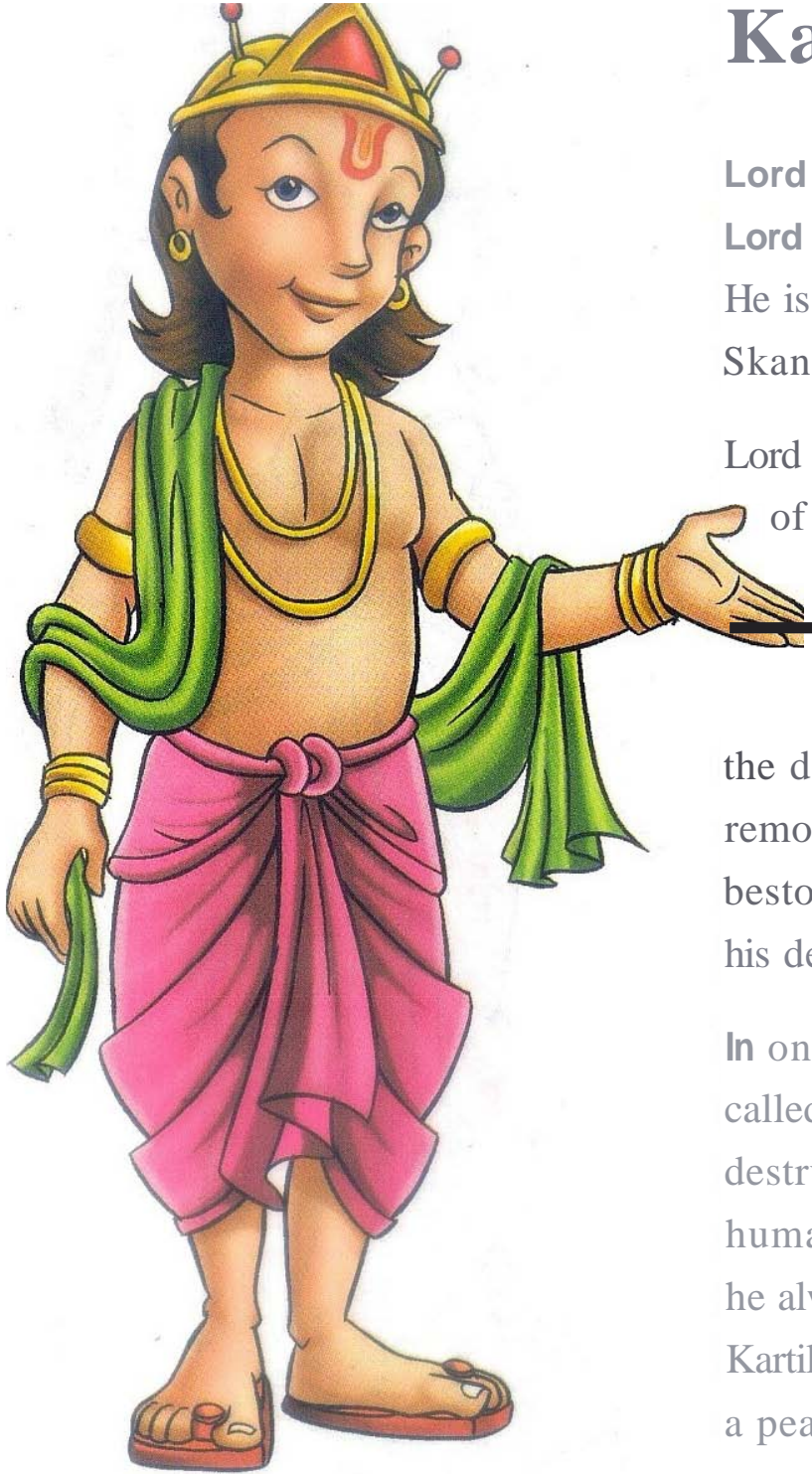
He is believed to be a dark-skinned ascetic with a blue throat. His hair is matted and coiled on his head, adorned with a snake and a crescent moon. River Ganga is depicted endlessly flowing out of his hair.

Goddess Parvati

Parvati is a gentler manifestation of Goddess Durga or Kali. She is the embodiment of benevolence and maternal affection. As the mother of Lord Ganesha and Lord Kartikeya, she is generally considered to be a benign goddess.

She is believed to be the second consort of Lord Shiva. It is often supposed that Parvati is the reincarnation of the former consort of Lord Shiva, Goddess SatL





Kartikeya

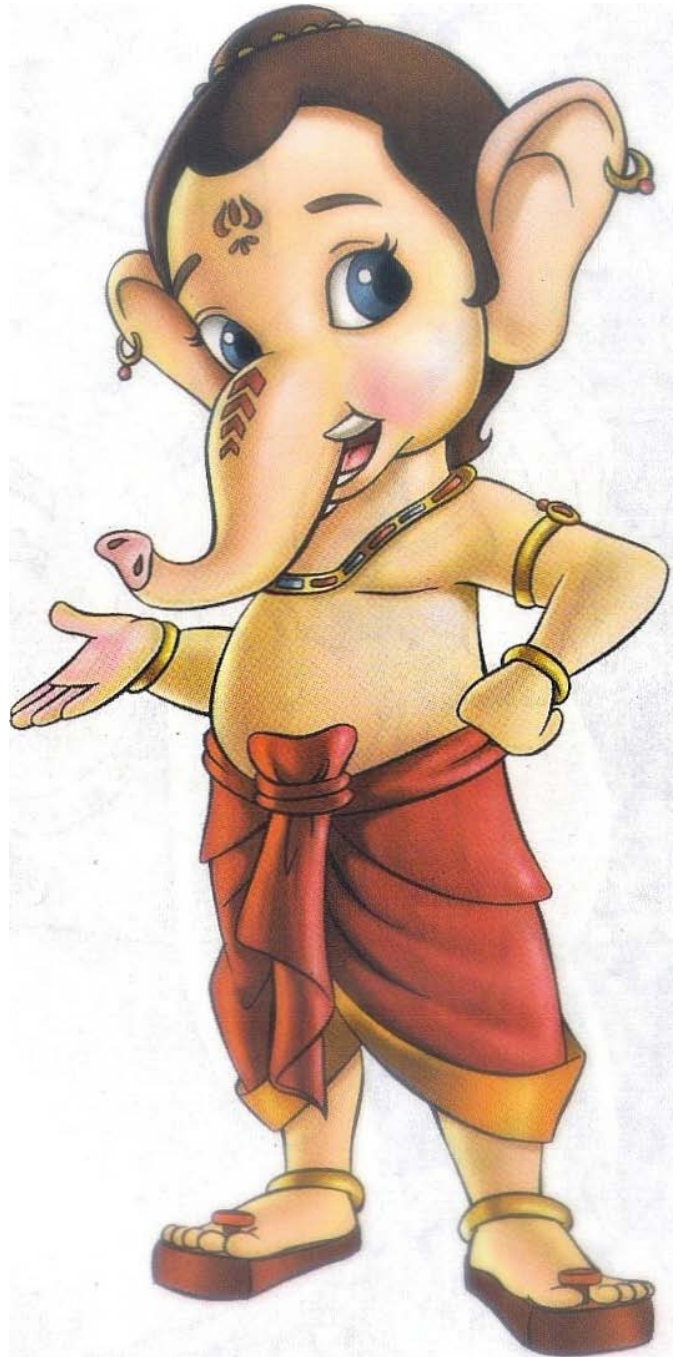
Lord Kartikeya is the first son of **Lord Shiva** and Goddess Parvati. He is also known as Subramaniam, Skanda and Sanmukha.

Lord Kartikeya is the embodiment of perfection. He is believed to be the 'God of War' in Hinduism. He was especially created by all the gods to destroy the demons. While Lord Ganesha removes all obstacles, Kartikeya bestows the power of knowledge on his devotees.

In one hand he carries a spear called shakti, which symbolizes the destruction of negative tendencies in human beings. With his other hand he always blesses his devotees. Lord Kartikeya is always accompanied by a peacock.

Lord Ganesha

Lord Ganesha is perhaps the most popular among all the gods in Hinduism. He is the beloved son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. Ganesha is a short, pot-bellied god with four arms and an elephant's head. In his conventional form, Lord Ganesha has four hands in which he holds a conch shell, a *chakra* (discus), a mace and a water-lily. His companion is none other than a rat. Ganesha is believed to be the god who removes all obstacles and bestows success on his devotees.



THIS IS THE STORY OF LORD GANESHA, THE ELEPHANT
HEADED GOD KNOWN FOR HIS WISDOM AND INTELLIGENCE.

